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Willard M. Porterfield, Ex-CIA Aide, Dies

Willard M. Porterfield, 73, a retired intelligence officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, died Thursday at his home after a heart attack.

Mr. Porterfield, who lived at 1247 30th St. NW, retired in 1963, after 17 years in intelligence. Since that time he has been a consultant for research projects sponsored by George Washington University.

Born in Harrisonburg, Pa., Mr. Porterfield was graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1914 and received a master's degree there a year later. He received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Columbia University in 1929.

For 13 years, beginning in 1916, Mr. Porterfield was on the faculty of St. John's University in Shanghai, China. In 1934, he became a researcher at the University of Vermont's Agricultural Experiment Station in Burlington.

Later he did research at the New York (City) Botanical Gardens and was director of the Soil Conservation Service of New York State.

His specialty was ethnobotany, the study of plant lore and history.

During World War II, Mr. Porterfield was a technical editor with the Army Corps of Engineers in New York City. He then came to Washington as editor with Joint Intelligence Studies Publishing Board Staff at the Army Map Service and soon joined the CIA.

Mr. Porterfield served on the



WILLARD M. PORTERFIELD

vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Georgetown for many years and was a former senior warden.

He leaves his wife, Edytha, of the home; a son, W. M. Porterfield III, in Pakistan; a daughter, Mrs. H. E. Benson, of Santa Ana, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. H. H. Rogers of Atlanta; a brother, D. H. Porterfield of New York City; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 4 p.m. today at Christ Episcopal Church, 3116 O St. NW. Burial will be private.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Christ Church endowment fund.